



COUNTY OF KAUA'I

News Release

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Training focuses on changing destructive adolescent behavior

LĪHU'E – Training for professionals and volunteers interested in becoming a certified facilitator for The Parent Project – a program developed to meet the needs of parents of strong-willed adolescents -- is being offered on Kaua'i.

The training will be held Oct. 2 to 6 at the Kapa'a Middle School Library, 8 am to 5 pm daily.

"I'm glad that the facilitator training is being offered on Kaua'i again," said Mayor Bryan J. Baptiste. "Having programs like The Parent Project that focus on improving communication between parents and their children is an integral part of our Kaua'i Community Drug Response Plan. Our families are the core of our community so the whole community benefits if families are happy and healthy."

According to Beverley Pang, an information specialist with the county's Anti-drug Office, the facilitator training program is designed for school administrators, teachers, counselors, court and probation officers, mental health providers, community leaders and parents.

"Those who take the training are equipped with tools that effectively change lives," said Pang.

Some of the topics covered in the training include:

- How to identify the specific needs of parents with difficult children.
- How to apply behavioral interventions that are most effective in changing destructive adolescent behavior.

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- How to develop group facilitation skills designed to increase parents' participation, motivation and learning.
- How to lead a topic-focused parent support group.
- How to apply strategies for overcoming barriers to parent participation.

Flying in from the mainland to conduct the facilitator's training will be Susan Johnson and Dr. Roger Morgan, authors of the book "A Parent's Guide to Changing Destructive Adolescent Behavior", which is being used as the foundation for The Parent Project program.

Dr. Morgan is a psychologist who has a private practice in Southern California, specializing in treating children and adolescents with behavioral problems. He has over 25 years of experience working with high risk adolescents and their families.

Johnson's credentials include – a B.A. in psychology and an M.S. in education. She has over 26 years of adult teaching experience and has done presentations at numerous conferences on adult learning theory, student motivation and retention and parent involvement.

Currently, Johnson is the manager of a resource center serving high risk families for a large unified school district in California.

Cost for the training is \$20 for those who sign an agreement to teach parent classes as part of a team after completing the facilitator training, while those who don't sign the agreement will have to pay \$710 for the session.

Part of the funding for the project is being provided through the state Legislature to support the county's drug prevention efforts.

For more information or to sign up for the facilitator training, please call Pang at 241-6392. Online information about The Parent Project is available at www.parentproject.com.

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